

An Invitation to Explore the Past

California State Parks

preserves and protects a vast number of unique cultural resources. These include archaeological and historic sites, buildings and remnants of structures, and other objects that have been made by humans throughout time.

These resources are irreplaceable. Each was made by the hands of a person or group of people using materials and methods from a distinct time and place in the past. One simple way you can help us protect these pieces of the past is to be aware of where you're walking. Staying on trails prevents fragile resources from accidental damage and will direct you to some of the best sights the park has to offer.



Thank you for helping us to preserve our precious cultural heritage.



Intricate petroglyphs drawn by ancestors of the Chumash people can be found in caves along the central California coast.



A slab of stone in Amador County bears the telltale signs that it was once used by the Miwok people to grind acorns and other seeds into meal.



Adobe bricks dry in the sun at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park



Archaeological excavations like this one at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park can provide us with details about ancient cultures and the more recent past.